June 8, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

The killing of Breonna Taylor by police officers while she slept in her bed, and the subsequent protest movement have the hearts and minds of the people of our Diocese fixed upon West Louisville. Many of us are asking what we can do to show the love of Christ to our Black neighbors who are hurting at this time. This weekend, the Diocese of Kentucky initiated a plan for immediate action. Now is a moment in which we can support the two predominantly Black Episcopal congregations in West Louisville, St. George’s and Our Merciful Saviour, as they do the work God has given them to do.

These two congregations are already part of the fabric of their neighborhoods. In addition to opening their doors for worship, they are engaged in a wide range of ministries with their neighbors. They provide food, clothing, youth enrichment opportunities, and more. Their ability to live out their calling in their communities is hampered, however, by significant issues with their buildings. If crucial repairs are not made soon, our Diocese runs the risk of losing these vital ministries at a time when they are so sorely needed.

Leaders from Our Merciful Saviour and St. George’s have identified a number of high priority repairs that need to be made at their churches. I, along with the Trustees and Council of the Diocese of Kentucky, invite you to join with us in a diocese-wide appeal to raise $200,000 to finance these critical projects. By providing the resources these congregations need, St. George’s and Our Merciful Saviour will be better equipped to lead us in working for Christ’s justice and healing among our neighbors in West Louisville.

To make a donation, please click here, or go to episcopalky.org, click on the donate link, and select “West Louisville Now”. If you prefer to give by check, make it payable to the Diocese of Kentucky with “West Louisville Now” in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to 425 St. 2nd St., Suite 200, Louisville, KY 40202.

However you choose to give, you will be supporting the long-standing work of these congregations. St. George’s and Our Merciful Saviour will continue to live out our shared commitment to strive for justice and peace long after the present protest movement has come to an end. We have an opportunity to come alongside our fellow Episcopalians in this work, but we must take action to support them now.

Yours in Christ,

The Right Rev. Terry A. White
Bishop of the Diocese of Kentucky
APPEAL GOALS AND ESTIMATED COSTS

St. George’s Goals in Priority Order:

1. Replace roof of the Gymnasium, which houses the food pantry, clothes closet, and youth ministries: $42,000
2. Resolve source of moisture in Gymnasium walls: $17,000
3. Replace rotted wood in Gymnasium: $5,000
4. Repair and paint plaster in Gymnasium: $12,000
5. Weatherproofing for fan in Gymnasium: $5,000
6. Weatherproofing in Gymnasium loft: $12,000
7. Resolve moisture issues in Church building: $25,000
8. Repair moisture damage in Church building: $16,000
9. Moisture remediation in Gymnasium basement: $1000

Grand Total for St. George’s: $135,000

Our Merciful Saviour’s Goals in Priority Order:

1. Roof over Dudley Hall: $20,000
2. Furnace for the sanctuary: $7,000
3. Air-conditioning unit for the sanctuary: $8,000
4. Repair floor in sanctuary: $5,000
5. Repair and replace doors and windows: $6,000

Grand Total for Our Merciful Saviour: $46,000

Any funds raised in excess of these goals will be earmarked to create endowments for the two congregations.

Proceeds from the appeal will be divided between St. George’s and Our Merciful Saviour as follows:

First $100,000: 50% will go to St. George’s and 50% to Our Merciful Saviour.

Next $100,000: 85% will to St George’s and 15% to Our Merciful Saviour, as our stated goal is focused on capital needs rather than endowment building.

If we are able to raise funds beyond our goal, the first $15,000 will go to St. George’s. Anything above that will be evenly divided between the two congregations.

These are unofficial initial estimates. A 10% variance is included in the total in anticipation of unexpected costs.